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CHALLENGERS

OF THE
UNKNOWN

12¢
NO. 60
MAR.

"The
THING
THAT COULD
NOT DIE!"

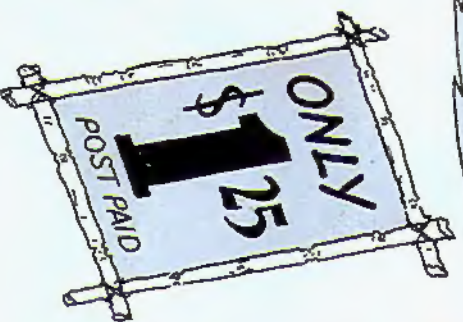
IT'S
CH-CHANGING...
TO A MAN! AND
DO YOU...SEE
WHO IT IS!?



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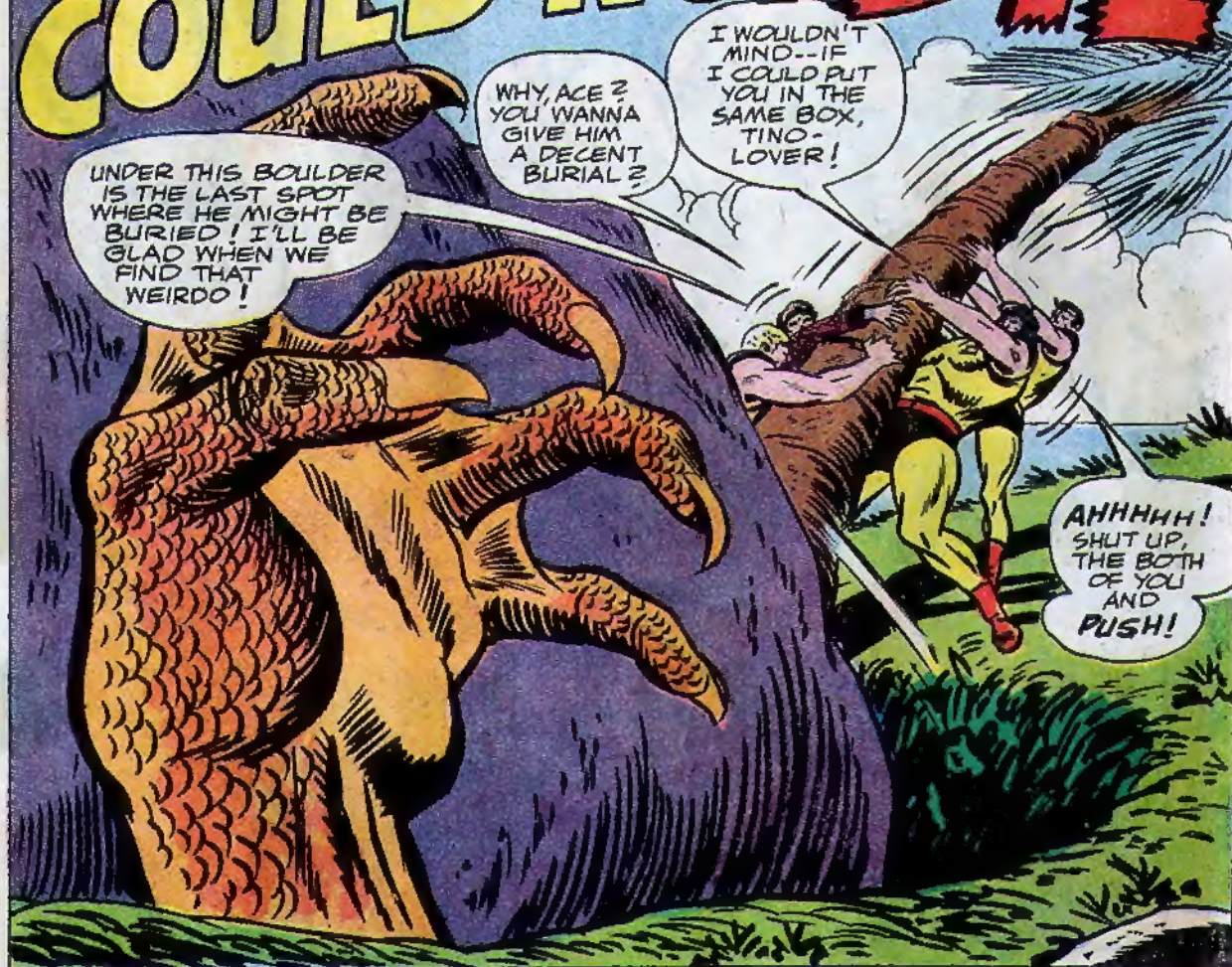
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THE WORLD'S GREATEST FEAR-FIGHTERS

SEEKEENAKEE--THE LIVING STONE IDOL--
IS DEAD! OR IS HE? THE CHALLS BURIED
THAT LEGENDARY TERROR UNDER TONS
OF DEBRIS, BUT WHEN THEY SEARCHED
THE RUBBLE, HE WAS NOWHERE TO BE
FOUND!
WHAT THEY DID FIND WAS THE FIRST CLUE
TO THEIR WILDEST ADVENTURE--AND THE
FIRST VIEW OF...

**CHALLENGERS
OF THE
UNKNOWN**

The **THING** THAT COULD NOT **DIE**



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(WHISTLE!)
MAN, THAT
HOLE'S SO
DEEP, I
CAN'T SEE
THE BOTTOM
OF IT!

THEN SEEKEENAKEE
COULDN'T HAVE LIVED
THROUGH THE FALL!

THE STONE GOD IS
JUST GRAVEL NOW!
LET'S GET OUT OF
HERE!



MAN, WHAT A
HAIRY YARN!
FIRST WE
FIND A
LEGENDARY
CHARACTER
WHO SHOULD
HAVE BEEN
DEAD 1,000
YEARS!
THEN HE
DISAPPEARS
WITHOUT A
TRACE!

I GUESS HE WENT
TO **STONE IDOL
HEAVEN!**



WEIRDEST THING OF ALL IS--
WE STILL DON'T KNOW WHAT
WE FOUND! A LIVING STONE
IDOL--? AS OUR BRITISH
COUSINS SAY--"A BEASTLY
MYSTERY!"

I DON'T
KNOW, PROF--
WE'VE RUN UP
AGAINST
WEIRDER
THINGS THAN
THAT--
WOULDN'T YOU
SAY, ROCKY?

ARRMMP!

EVEN YOU
CAN TALK
PLAINER
THAN THAT,
MUSH-
MOUTH!



HOLY
COW!
WE
FOUND
ANOTHER
"WHAT-
IS-IT?"!

ARRRRGH!

WHAD'YA MEAN,
WE FOUND HIM!
HE FOUND ME!
EYOWWW!



HIT HIM WITH
EVERYTHING,
MEN!

WHOOOSH!
WHOOOMP!

THAT'S THE
QUICKEST
ANSWER I
EVER HAD
TO A
HELP-
WANTED
AD!

EYOWRRR

YOU HAVE
ROUSED ME
FROM THE
SLEEP OF
ONE MILLION
YEARS!

Y-Y-YA
SHOULDA
LEFT A
"DO NOT
DISTURB"
SIGN!

FORGET THE JOKES,
ROCKY, AND SAVE YOUR
BREATH FOR RUNNING!

I THOUGHT YOU
GUYS NEVER RAN!

THAT'S OUR PUBLICITY
MAN--HE NEVER
RUNS! HE'S A LOT
BRAVER THAN WE
ARE!

DIDN'T YOU KNOW,
SONNY? IT'S THE
SOUTH PACIFIC BRANCH
OF DISNEYLAND!

WHAT KINDA
NUTTY ISLAND
IS THIS--
STONE IDOLS
THAT COME
TO LIFE,
MILLION-YEAR-OLD
LIZARD MEN!

AND YOU DON'T
NEED A TICKET--
JUST YOUR LIFE!



ONE OF THE STONE HEADS--
A DANDY WEAPON FOR
FIGHTING GIANT
LIZARD MEN!

OKAY, LET'S
FLIP THIS THING--
HEADS WE WIN!

THAT'S A
SUCKER
BET! THIS
THING
HASN'T GOT
ANY TAILS!

YEAH--IT'S
RECOMMENDED
BY ALL THE
BEST
AUTHORITIES!
MAN--YOU
ARE A
CRAZY
GROUP!

THIS IS IT,
FRIENDS!
LOOKS LIKE
WE'RE
GONNA BE
ON BIG
MOUTH'S
MENU
TONIGHT!

ONE CHANCE LEFT!
THE MINI-FIRE
BOMBS I PACK IN
MY SILVER CIGARETTE
CASE WHICH
ACTUALLY IS A
LITTLE
CHEM LAB!

EXOWRRR

CRACK

EXOWRRR?

CRACKLE! POOF

EXOWRR

YOU DID IT,
PROFESSOR!
YOU JUST
GAVE HIM
THE WORLD'S
BIGGEST
HOT-FOOT!

IF HE
SURVIVES
THAT--
THE
WHOLE
WORLD
BETTER
PACK ITS
BAGS AND
LEAVE
TOWN!

HOT SOCKS! WILL YOU LOOK
WHAT'S HAPPENING? THAT
WHOLE THING IS TURNING
TO ASHES--LIKE IN A FEW
SECONDS! WHAT'S GOIN'
ON HERE?

I'M STARTING
TO GET A
HUNCH!

THAT'S WHAT'S I THOUGHT!
THE PHOENIX--THE LEGEND-
ARY GREEK BIRD THAT
RISES FROM ITS OWN
ASHES!

THANKS FOR THE
CULTURAL LESSON--
BUT I STILL WANNA
KNOW WHAT GIVES!

I'LL TELL YOU WHAT
GIVES! THE BIRD,
LIZARD-MAN AND
STONE IDOL WERE
ALL ONE! A BEING
WHO CAN CHANGE
HIS FORM AT WILL!
AND THERE'S ONLY
ONE OF THOSE--

YOU
MEAN,
MULTI-
MAN?

WHAT'S A
MULTI-MAN?

IT'S NOT A WHAT, IT'S A WHO!
FOR FURTHER INFORMATION,
LITTLE MAN, WE'RE TAKING
YOU TO--JAIL!

AND A VERY
SPECIAL
JAIL!
CREATED BY
THE
CHALLENGERS
IN THE HEART
OF A DEAD
VOLCANO,
IT HOUSES
THE WORLD'S
THREE
DEADLIEST
CRIMINALS...

KRA--AN OUTER-SPACE
ROBOT, INVULNERABLE TO
ANYTHING BUT WATER!
SAY SOMETHING FOR
THE MAN, KRA!

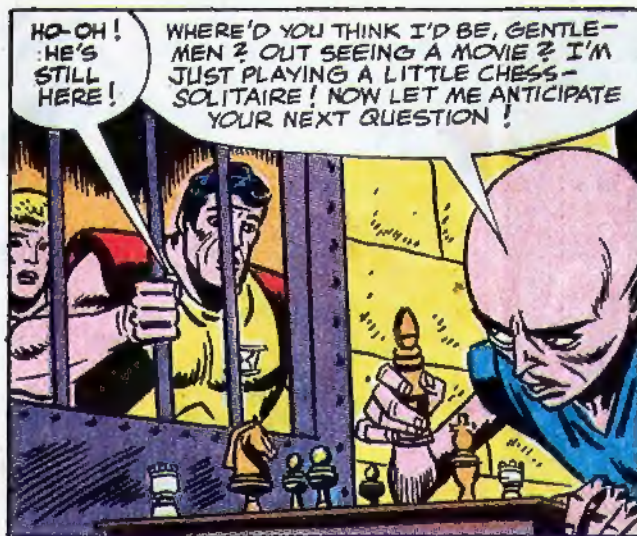
DROP
DEAD!

THEN THERE'S
VOLCANO
MAN--

LONG AS WE'VE
GOT THAT CONTROL
BELT ON HIM,
'OL' LAVA-BOY
IS HELPLESS!

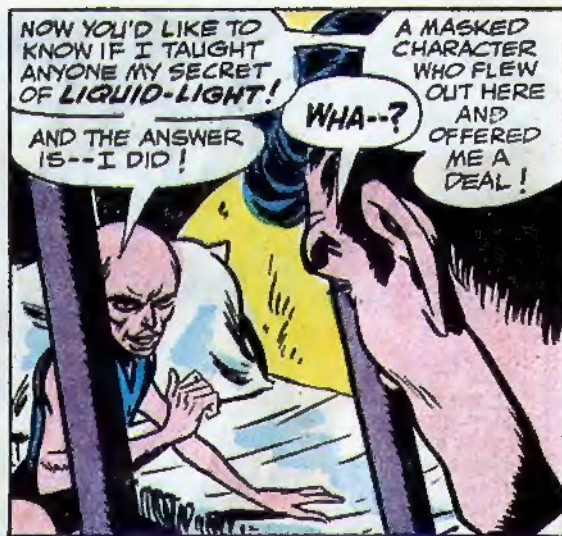
AND FINALLY--
MULTI-MAN!

BUT IF WE'RE
RIGHT, M-M
HAS FLOWN
THE COOP!



HO-OH!
HE'S
STILL
HERE!

WHERE'D YOU THINK I'D BE, GENTLE-
MEN? OUT SEEING A MOVIE? I'M
JUST PLAYING A LITTLE CHESS-
SOLITAIRE! NOW LET ME ANTICIPATE
YOUR NEXT QUESTION!



NOW YOU'D LIKE TO
KNOW IF I TAUGHT
ANYONE MY SECRET
OF **LIQUID-LIGHT**!

AND THE ANSWER
IS--I DID!

WHA--?

A MASKED
CHARACTER
WHO FLEW
OUT HERE
AND
OFFERED
ME A
DEAL!



HE SAID HE'D FREE ALL OF
US IF I GAVE HIM THE
FORMULA!

I DID-- HE GOT THE
INGREDIENTS AND I
HELPED HIM MIX IT!

THEN HE DRANK IT HIM-
SELF--AND DOUBLE-CROSSED
YOU, RIGHT? HA-HA-HA!

VERY FUNNY! ONLY NOW
HE'S YOUR PROBLEM!



CAN YOU
GIVE US
A CLUE
AS TO
WHO HE
IS--OR
WHERE
HE'LL
TURN
UP
NEXT?

SURE I CAN! BUT WHAT'S IT
WORTH TO YOU? MY
FREEDOM?

SKIP IT! WE'RE NOT GONNA TRADE ONE
SUPER-FINK FOR ANOTHER!



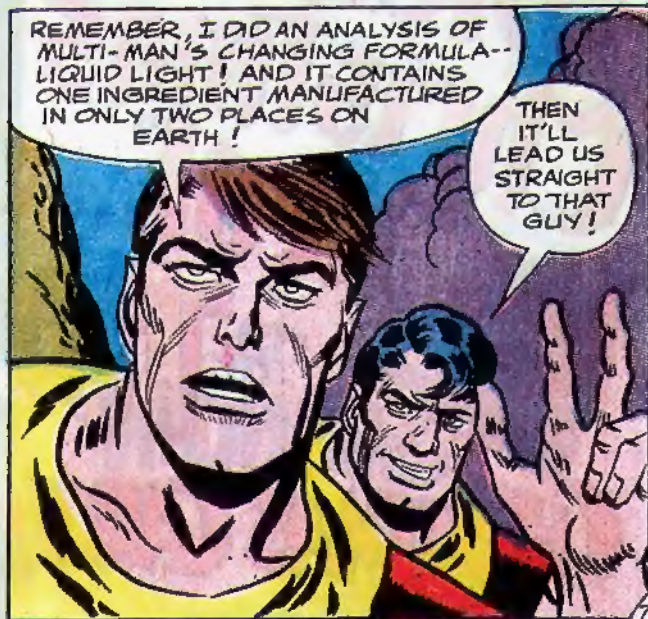
WE DON'T NEED HIS INFORMATION!
I THINK I CAN LEAD US TO "SON
OF MULTI-MAN!" COME ON!

GOOD
LUCK,
SUCKERS!
YOU'LL
NEED
IT!

BREAK
A LEG!

WSSSS

YOU GUYS GOT
SUCH NICE
TENANTS!



REMEMBER, I DID AN ANALYSIS OF
MULTI-MAN'S CHANGING FORMULA--
LIQUID LIGHT! AND IT CONTAINS
ONE INGREDIENT MANUFACTURED
IN ONLY TWO PLACES ON
EARTH!

THEN
IT'LL
LEAD US
STRAIGHT
TO THAT
GUY!



DC's answer
to Dickens'
Christmas
Carol...
THE TIT'S
SWINGIN'
CHRISTMAS CAROL!
NOW ON SALE!



LET'S CHAT WITH THE CHALLS

Address all mail to:
CHALLENGERS OF THE UNKNOWN
National Periodicals
575 Lexington Avenue
New York, N.Y. 10022



Dear Editor:

In #57, you stated, "No other mag can claim having killed off a hero!" Looking through my file of back issues, I've found at least 30 examples of a hero's death. The most remembered of these is Bruce Wayne's butler, Alfred, who sacrificed his life to save Batman and Robin. Although he was restored to life later, he was still "dead" for about a year and a half. Lightning Lad was another hero killed in action, who eventually was revived. There have been mass executions where 14 members of the Legion of Super Heroes were killed by a masked man. He turned out to be a descendent of Mr. Mxyzptlk, whose effects were reversed by Superboy. Wonder Woman, Wonder Tot plus several others were removed, in effect killing them, to revert to the Golden Age of Comics. The mass demise theme often has been presented in "Metal Men" where Doc Magnus has sometimes had to melt down all of his robots to repair them. Other notable "deaths" include Green Lantern, Metamorpho, and Superman. So you see you aren't the first to kill a hero, as you presumed, but one of many. It seems impossible that you could keep from reviving Red sooner or later, unless Tino Manarry replaced him, which wouldn't be the same. If Red is returned, make sure it's spectacular, and in the CHALLS' tradition of greatness!

Allan Lipsett, Decatur, Ga.

Dear Editor:

When I read of Red's death, I was sick. It wasn't that I thought you wouldn't print a story like that; it was just that I didn't understand why you did it. The CHALLS are great because they are a team, yet you guys destroyed one of the greatest, most realistic, and bravest characters in comicdom. No. 55 was a smasher, but the mag will be even more successful if you bring back Red. I ask, plead, demand that he rejoin his teammates!

Wallace L. Hopkins, Glen Carbon, Ill

"It would be the greatest disappointment of my life if Red were permanently gone," writes Jim Pitzer of Ft. Wayne, Ind. . . . "I just know," predicts John Zocco of South Hackensack, N.J., "that ol' Carrot-Top hasn't disappeared, and that you'll have him back in business at the same old stand. Hurrah!" . . . "If anyone wants him back, it's me," snaps Bill Urban from Kearny, N.J.

"No other issue could be as stunning as #55. I

thought," thinks James Schneck "but #56 was just as neat. The only thing I didn't like was Red's failure to return." . . . "You certainly showed your guts by killing off Red, but you must bring him back," orders Charles Vice of Atherton, Calif. . . . "How can you keep him away so long?" demands GI Gary Martin, APO San Francisco, and submits a cover sketch illustrating his triumphant return . . . "Keep Red out of the picture for a while," offers Joe Lenius of Chicago, "then call him back." . . . You must bring him back!" snaps Sherry Betts from Rota, Spain.

On the other hand: "At first, I felt like calling you a fink for not making Tino a CHALL since he was pinch-hitting for his older brother, but now that he's proved himself, leave Red where he is. Not that I had anything against Red, who was one of my all-time favorites, but Tino is a fab replacement," says Brian Witt of Milwaukee, Wis. . . . Samuel Herskovitz of Cleveland, O., penned a lengthy and eloquent epistle, protesting any thoughts of reviving our crimson-cropped CHALL . . . "If you dare bring him back," warns Larry Emery of Sherman Oaks, Calif., "I'll sic my three-foot-high hound on you!" (We're laying in a supply of dog repellent, Larry!—Ed.).

Take our word for it, you frantic fans! We sincerely planned to do away with Carrot-Top, living up to our promise of scoring a unique "first" in comics history, not liquidating him for sheer sensationalism, but because bull sessions with Bob Brown, Arnie Drake and Ye Ed resulted in the rash conclusion that Red just wasn't pulling his weight with the champ CHALLS.

But then came the deluge of mail protesting his annihilation. Never did we think his death would raise such a furious fuss of pro and con. In subsequent stories, we walked a tight rope, whether or not to restore him to life. But as the hue and cry boiled up to a crescendo—condemning us for destroying him without justification, expressing genuine grief over the untimely demise of a long-established pal for whom they'd developed a strong affection, and disappointment over our failure to revive the ol' Red-head—as outraged readers made themselves heard, Bob, Arnie and Ye Ed had no alternative but to reconsider, and yield to the voluminous, vociferous voices of our vast readership. That, as it's been said, is the American way.

OBVIOUSLY, THE MASKED
GUY USED M-M'S SECRET
TO BECOME SEEKEENAKEE--

THEN, WHEN HE HAD THE
STONE IDOL CORNERED, HE
CHANGED INTO LIZARD MAN
AND FLAME-MOO! WHOA!
THAT THING DOESN'T
KNOW HOW TO DIE!

IF I DIDN'T SEE
THOSE THINGS
HAPPEN, I'D
SAY THEY WERE
IMPOSSIBLE!

A PEA-BRAIN
LIKE YOU,
WOULD!

STILL LOOKING
FOR A FAT
LIP, eh?

TRY IT, SONNY!
BUT YA BETTER
BRING YOUR
BIG BROTHER,
TOO!

IF ROCKY COULD HAVE BOUGHT BACK THOSE
WORDS, HE WOULD HAVE ...

KID--I DIDN'T MEAN
THAT! IT WAS A
LOUSY JOKE! I
REALLY FORGOT
THAT RED RYAN
WAS YOUR BROTHER!
OUR BOY, RED!

AW, SKIP IT, YOU
OVER-SIZED MEAT-
BALL! LIKE THEY
SAY, IT ONLY HURTS
WHEN I LAUGH!

WHY'DJA HAVE TO GET YOURSELF
KILLED, RED? I GOT ALL THE
BREAD I NEED! CHICKS FLIP
FOR ME RIGHT AND LEFT! BUT
WHAT GOOD IS IT WITHOUT
SOMEBODY TO TELL IT TO?

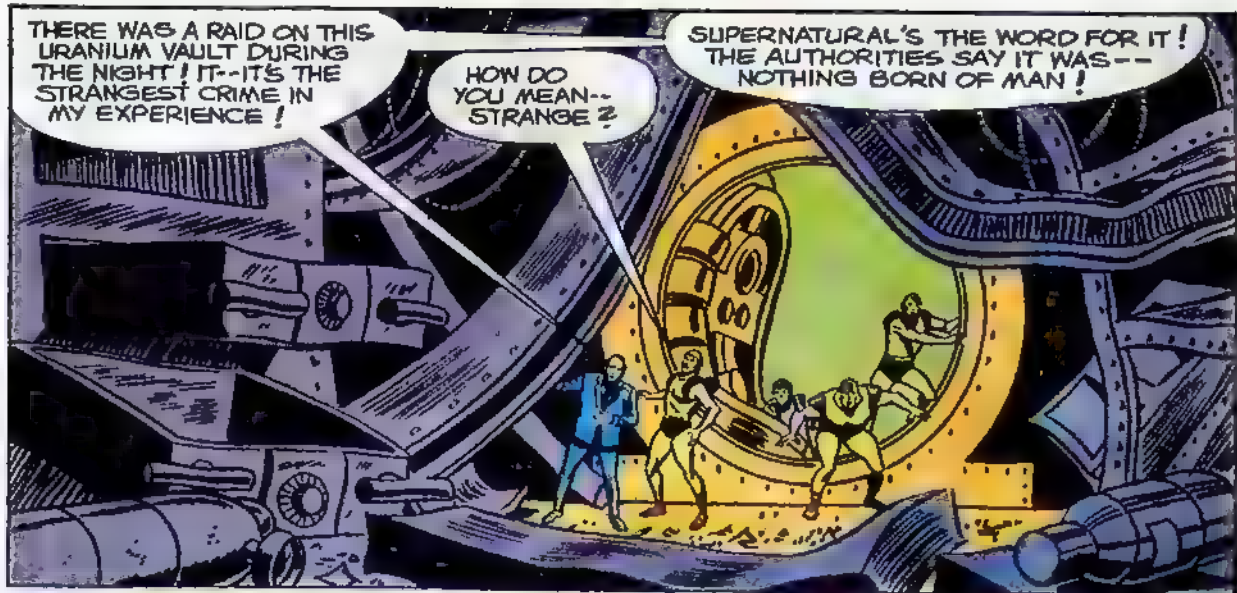
OKAY, OUR FIRST STOP
IS JUST SOUTH OF
LOS ANGELES--THE
MORTON CHEMICAL
PLANT! THE WORLD'S
BIGGEST MANUFACTURER
OF FROZEN NITROX!

THE STUFF
THAT LITTLE
CHANGELINGS
ARE MADE
OF?

LET ME ASK YOU AGAIN,
MR. MORTON--

YOU'RE SURE
YOUR NITROX
STOCK
HASN'T BEEN
RAIDED?

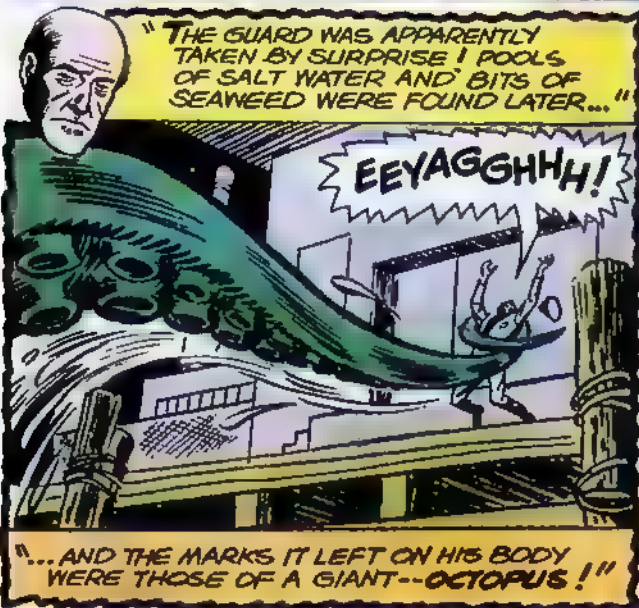
HARDLY, PROF.
HALEY! ZERO-
NITROX IS
EXPENSIVE TO
PRODUCE AND
HAS FEW
APPLICATIONS
AS YET! NOW
IF IT WERE PURE
URANIUM--



THERE WAS A RAID ON THIS URANIUM VAULT DURING THE NIGHT! IT--IT'S THE STRANGEST CRIME IN MY EXPERIENCE!

HOW DO YOU MEAN--STRANGE?

SUPERNATURAL'S THE WORD FOR IT! THE AUTHORITIES SAY IT WAS--NOTHING BORN OF MAN!



"THE GUARD WAS APPARENTLY TAKEN BY SURPRISE! POOLS OF SALT WATER AND BITS OF SEAWEED WERE FOUND LATER..."

EYAGGHHH!

"...AND THE MARKS IT LEFT ON HIS BODY WERE THOSE OF A GIANT--OCTOPUS!"



WE KEPT IT QUIET AT THE GOVERNMENT'S REQUEST! BUT--I STILL DON'T BELIEVE IT HAPPENED!

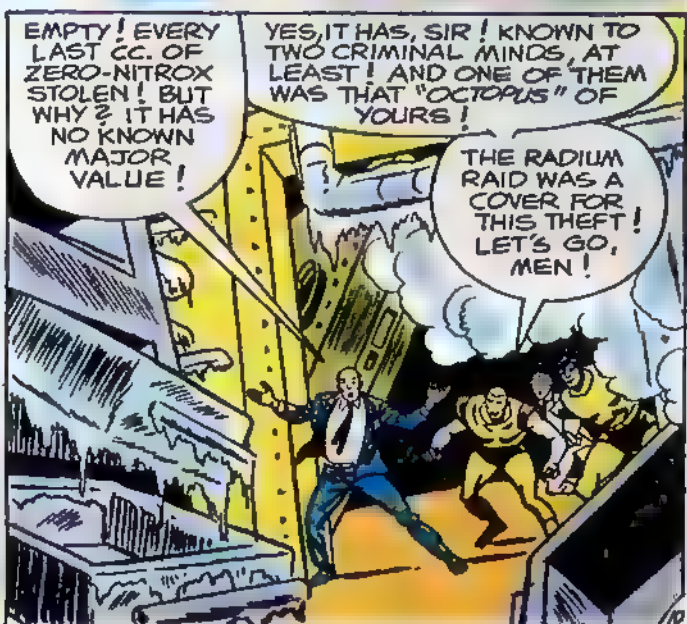
YOU DO BUSINESS WITH THESE THREE GUYS FOR A WHILE--AND YOU'LL BELIEVE IN ANYTHING!



AFTER THIS, DID YOU CHECK THE NITROX ROOM?

NO REASON TO! GREAT SCOTT--YOU DON'T THINK--?

THE NITROX VAULT--IT'S JUST BEHIND THIS ONE! HURRY!



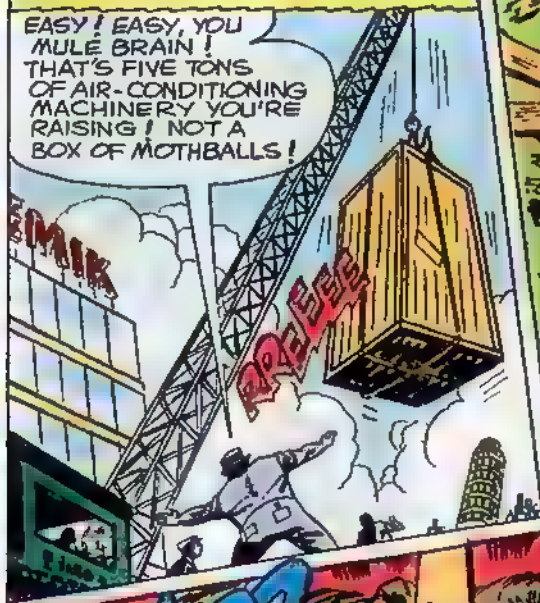
EMPTY! EVERY LAST CC. OF ZERO-NITROX STOLEN! BUT WHY? IT HAS NO KNOWN MAJOR VALUE!

YES, IT HAS, SIR! KNOWN TO TWO CRIMINAL MINDS, AT LEAST! AND ONE OF THEM WAS THAT "OCTOPUS" OF YOURS!

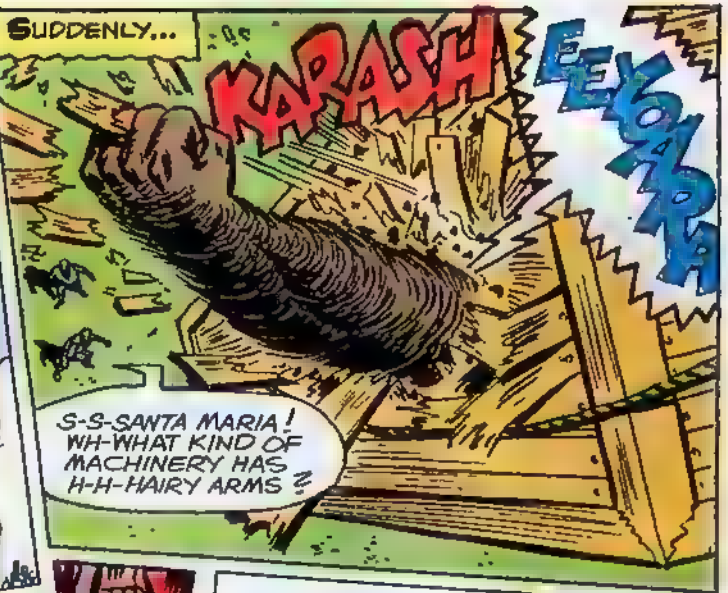
THE RADIUM RAID WAS A COVER FOR THIS THEFT! LET'S GO, MEN!

MEANWHILE, AT THE **INSTITUTO CHEMIK**, IN PISA, ITALY...

EASY! EASY, YOU MULE BRAIN! THAT'S FIVE TONS OF AIR-CONDITIONING MACHINERY YOU'RE RAISING! NOT A BOX OF MOTHBALLS!



SUDDENLY...



S-S-SANTA MARIA! WH-WHAT KIND OF MACHINERY HAS H-H-HAIRY ARMS?



A MACHINE THAT L-LOOKS LIKE A G-G-GIANT GORILLA! THAT'S WHAT KIND!

SHUT UP, IMBECILE-- AND CALL THE POLICE! CALL THE CARABINIERI! THE ARMY! ANYBODY!



SIGNORA PAVELLI-- TELL THOSE STUPID WORKMEN TO STOP ALL THAT NOISE! I CAN'T THINK!

SI, SIGNOR DIRETTORE!



WE'VE GOT TO HOPE--
WHATEVER FORM THAT
THING'S TAKEN NOW--
THEY HAVEN'T KILLED
IT!

CHECK! HE MAY HAVE
TAUGHT THE CHANGING
FORMULA TO A
PARTNER--AND
WE'D BE DUMB
TO IT TILL IT WAS
TOO LATE!

BULLETS AND BAZOOKAS
DON'T STOP IT-- BUT
THESE ARMOR-
PIERCING ROCKETS
WILL!

FIRE!

BA-WHOOOSH!

WHOOOSH!

KWAM!

INSTITUTO CHEMIK

IT'S NO GOOD,
CAPTAIN!
ONLY ONE THING
CAN STOP IT!

THIS MOBILE
LASER--BUILT RIGHT
HERE AT THE INSTITUTE!
IT CAN SHINE A LIGHT AS FAR
AS THE MOON--OR
BLOW A HOLE IN A
SIX-FOOT BLOCK
OF STEEL!

FULL
POWER!

FULL
ON!

RELEASE
CRYSTAL
STIMULATION!
FIRE!

FI--!

STOP!
DON'T FIRE
THAT THING!

HOLD IT! YOU MUSTN'T KILL THAT THING! NO TIME TO EXPLAIN, BUT--

-- NO EXPLANATION NECESSARY! YOU ARE THE **CHALLENGERS OF THE UNKNOWN!** WE HAVE HEARD OF YOU HERE! DO WHAT YOU MUST!

I'VE GOT THE CHANGING ANTIDOTE IN THE BABY BOMBS IN MY CIGARETTE CASE!

FINE! WE SPLIT UP INTO TWO TEAMS AND APPROACH FROM OPPOSITE SIDES! BUT WE'LL NEED SOME MOUNTAIN-CLIMBING GEAR!

MOUNTAIN CLIMBING? WHAT FOR?

FOR THE STRANGEST MOUNTAIN CLIMBING EXPEDITION IN HISTORY, THAT'S WHAT FOR, JUNIOR!

YIIII!
I'M FALLING!

I-I MISSED!

EASY DOES IT, SONNY!
I'VE GOT YOU!
(UNGGGH!)

(OOF!)
THANKS!

BUT--DON'T YOU GUYS DO ANYTHING THE EASY WAY?

WHAT--AND LOSE THIS WONDERFUL JOB WE'VE GOT?

SIMULTANEOUSLY ON THE OTHER SIDE OF THE BUILDING...

OKAY, IF I CAN'T HIT HIM FROM HERE, I'LL QUIT THE BOWLING TEAM SIGMUND!

IF YOU DON'T HIT HIM, THERE AIN'T GONNA BE NO BOWLING TEAM, MANFRIED!

I GOT HIM! I GOT HIM!
AND AS SOON AS THE ANTIDOTE DOES ITS JOB-- WE'LL SEE WHAT WE'VE GOT!

PWOOM!

MEANWHILE, ELSEWHERE, AT THAT VERY SECOND-- (OR MAYBE A SECOND OR TWO LATER-- WHO'S COUNTING?)...

HYAR-HYAR-HYAR!
HO-HYAR-HYAR!

I DON'T GET IT, M-M!
WHY DIDN'T YOU TELL
THE CHALLENGERS WHO
THAT DOUBLE-CROSSING
CREEP WAS?

BECAUSE IT'S MORE
FUN IMAGINING HOW
THEY'RE FINDING
IT OUT! HYAR-HYAR!!

THEY'LL TOSS AN ANTIDOTE BOMB AT
THAT MANIAC-- THAT RAVING NUT
WHO TRICKED THE FORMULA
FROM ME!

THEN HE'LL
CHANGE BACK
TO HUMAN
FORM AND--
HYAR-HYAR!
I LOVE IT--
I LOVE
IT!

THE ANTIDOTE
WORKED SLOWER
THIS TIME, BUT
IT'S CHANGING
HIM TO HIS HUMAN
FORM! AND--
LOOK! IT--IT--
IT'S--

RED! OUR
BOY RED!
TINO'S
BROTHER!
B-BUT
RED IS
DEAD!!

NO HE'S NOT!
NOTHING CAN KILL
A CHALLENGER!
I KNEW IT! I
KNEW IT!
OUR BOY'S
ALIVE AND
KICKIN'!

YOU'RE
FORGETTING--
THAT'S SEEKEENAKEE,
TOO--THE THING
THAT KILLED
PEOPLE--
STARTED
REVOLUTIONS--

BUT HE WAS
OFF HIS ROCKER
THEN! HE'S
OKAY NOW!

RIGHT, RED'S
SWING
OVER
HERE AND
SHAKE PROF'S
HAND!

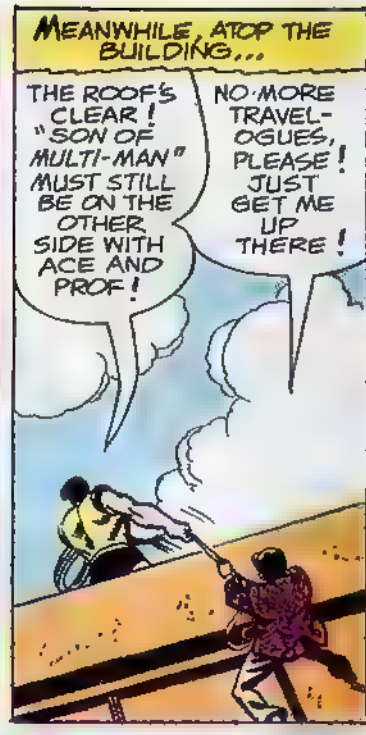
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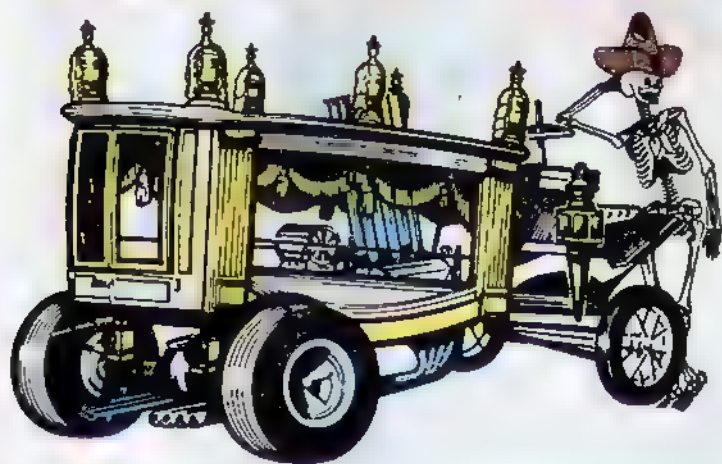
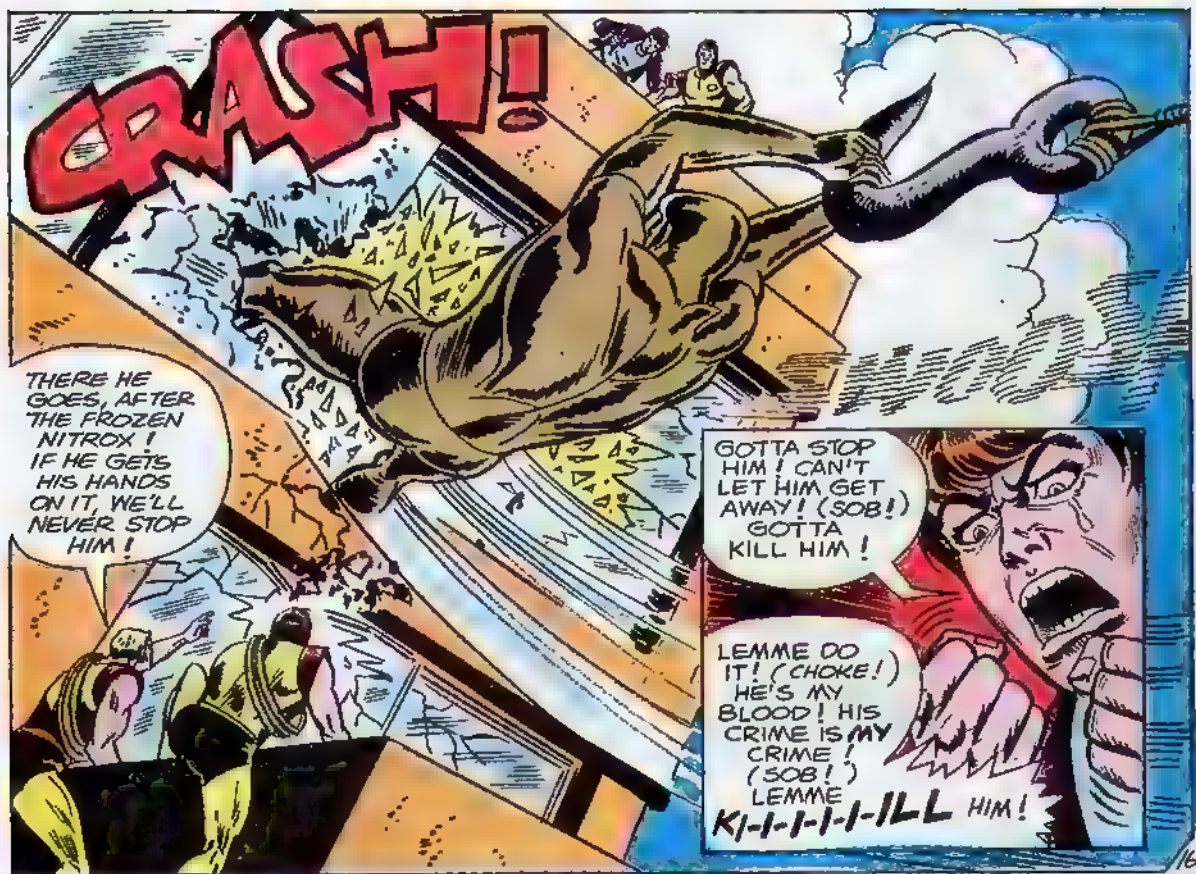
PROF?

PRO-O-FFF!

AWOOOOF!

POW!





**Old Dead Eye Says—
Have Fun—Get the New
Kookie Car Kit!**

**BOOT
HILL
EXPRESS**

Authentic National Custom Auto Show Model—Easy to Make

It's a hearse. Copy of a real one built in New York in mid 1800's. It's a 1/24 scale model of the original kookie, off-beat original built by Ray Fahrner. It's a swell model to make.

Note the gaudy ornaments on top, black velvet curtains inside, clear windows all around, hundred-year-old kerosene head and tail lamps.

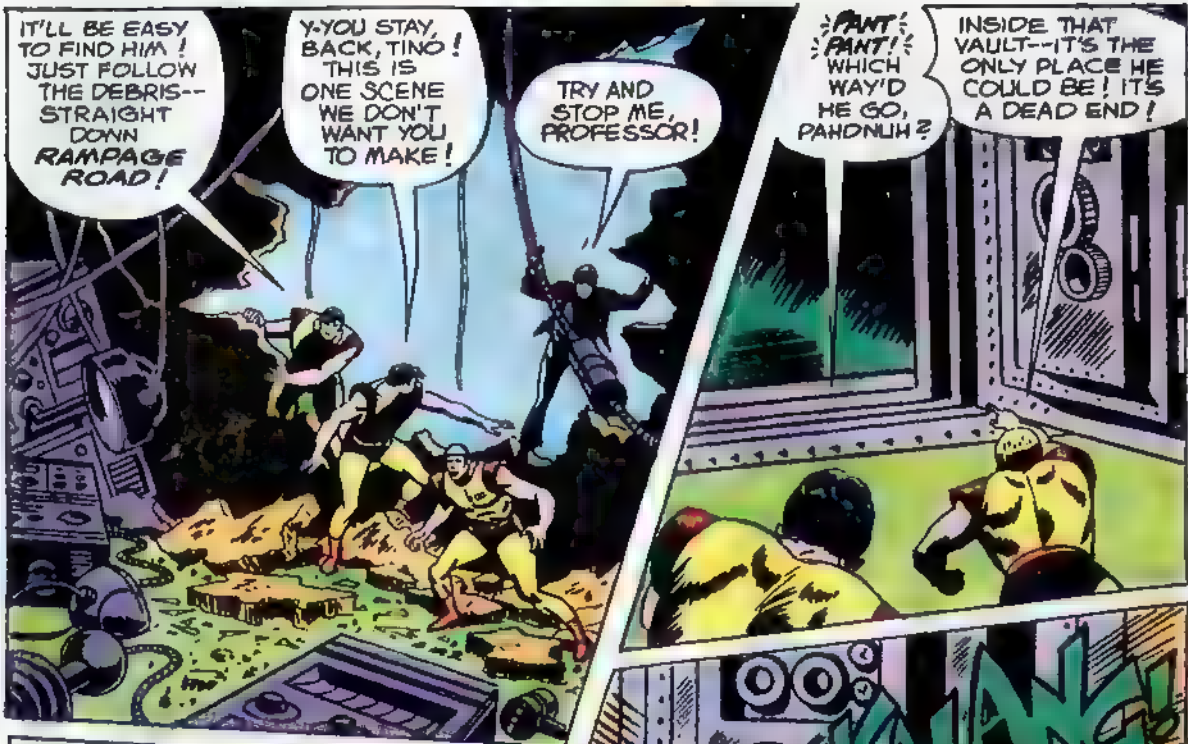
Injected engine mounted inside with stacks sticking thru the roof. One piece frame, plated mag wheels, drag slicks on rear, engraved dashboard, diamond tufted seats and floor board. Lots of chrome.

Skeleton with ten gallon hat and six-gun and a grave marker included. Makes fascinating display with a western flair.

Get a Boot Hill Express at your favorite store today. It's dead certain you'll get a bang out of it. Only \$2.00.

**Monogram Models, Inc.,
Morton Grove, Illinois.**





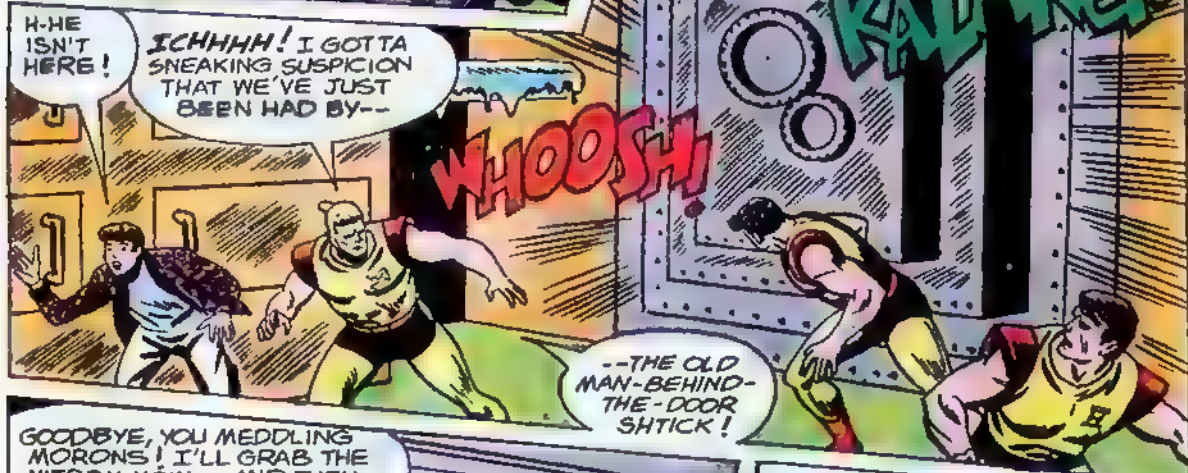
IT'LL BE EASY
TO FIND HIM!
JUST FOLLOW
THE DEBRIS--
STRAIGHT
DOWN
RAMPAGE
ROAD!

Y-YOU STAY,
BACK, TINO!
THIS IS
ONE SCENE
WE DON'T
WANT YOU
TO MAKE!

TRY AND
STOP ME,
PROFESSOR!

FANT!
FANT!
WHICH
WAY'D
HE GO,
PAHONUH?

INSIDE THAT
VAULT--IT'S THE
ONLY PLACE HE
COULD BE! IT'S
A DEAD END!



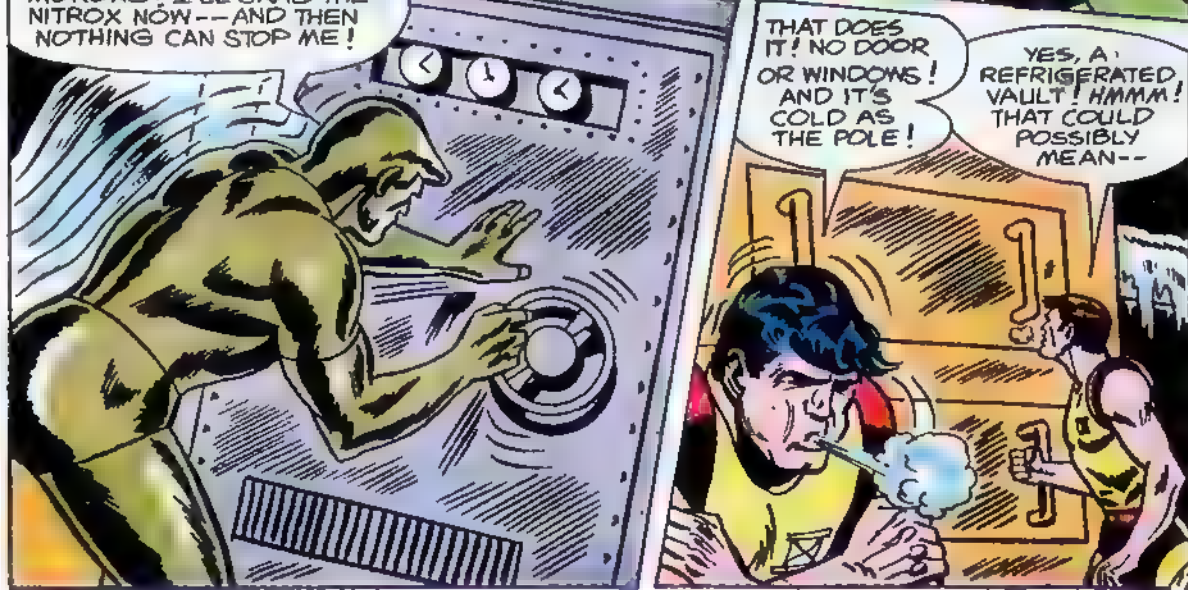
H-HE
ISN'T
HERE!

ICHHHH! I GOTTA
SNEAKING SUSPICION
THAT WE'VE JUST
BEEN HAD BY--

WHOOOSH!

KALANG!

--THE OLD
MAN-BEHIND-
THE-DOOR
SHTICK!

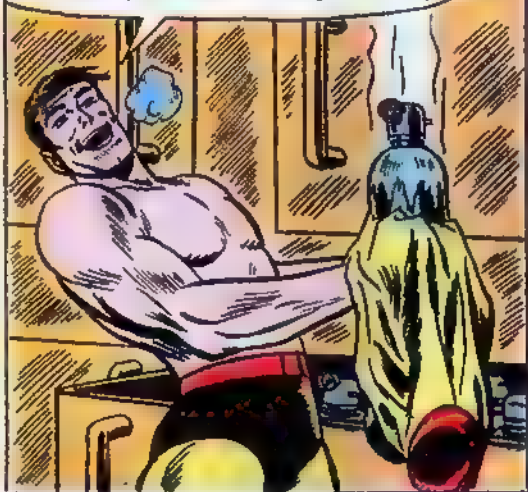


GOODBYE, YOU MEDDLING
MORONS! I'LL GRAB THE
NITROX NOW--AND THEN
NOTHING CAN STOP ME!

THAT DOES
IT! NO DOOR
OR WINDOWS!
AND IT'S
COLD AS
THE POLE!

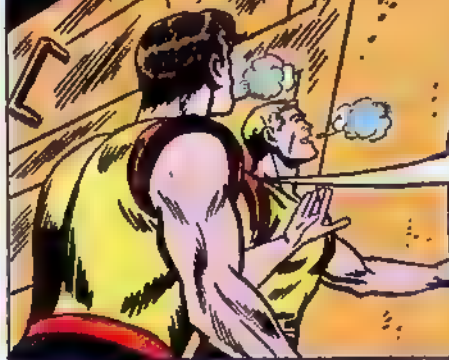
YES, A
REFRIGERATED
VAULT! HMMM!
THAT COULD
POSSIBLY
MEAN--

HA-HA-HA! WHAT A LAUGH! THE FROZEN NITROX! HE LOCKED US UP WITH THE VERY STUFF HE'S TRYING TO GET HIS HANDS ON! HA-HA!



SO WHAT? WE'RE STILL LOCKED IN! LUCKY THERE'S AN AIR VENTILATOR!

YOU SAID IT! 'CAUSE THAT VENTILATOR IS--OUR DOOR OUT!



HUH? YOU COULDN'T SQUEEZE ANYTHING BIGGER THAN A PEANUT THROUGH THERE!

MEET-- MR. PEANUT!

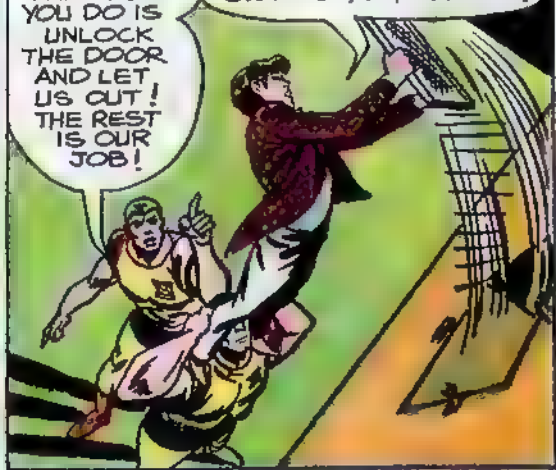
THE SHRIMP HIMSELF! YEAH, HE COULD DO IT!

WATCH IT! ANY MORE CRACKS AND I'LL WEDGE MYSELF IN THAT VENTILATOR TILL YOU TURN BLUE!



NOW REMEMBER, KID--ALL YOU DO IS UNLOCK THE DOOR AND LET US OUT! THE REST IS OUR JOB!

GOT'CHYA! I GUESS YOU'RE RIGHT! I'LL STEP OUT, AFTER THIS!



I'LL STEP OUT, ALL RIGHT!

AFTER RED'S PAID FOR WHAT HE'S DONE!

(SOB!)

AND I'LL DO THE COLLECTING!

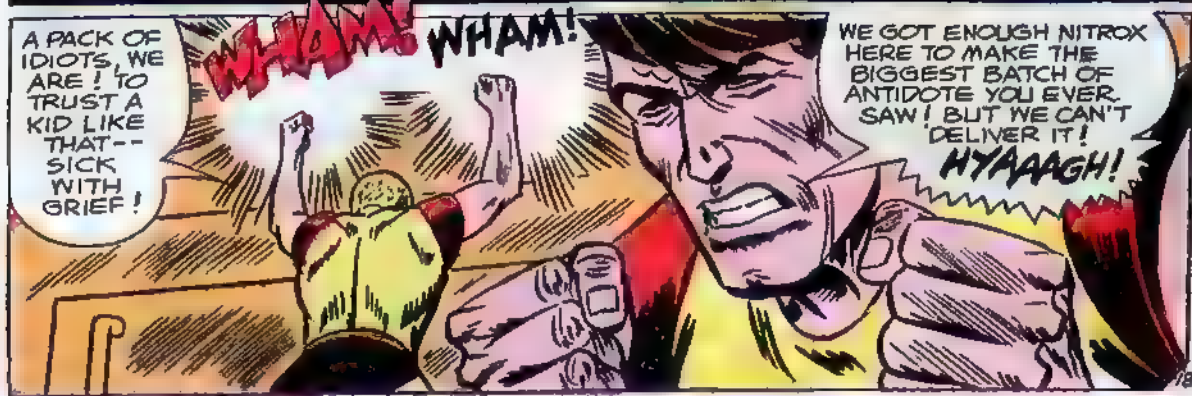
(CHOKES!)

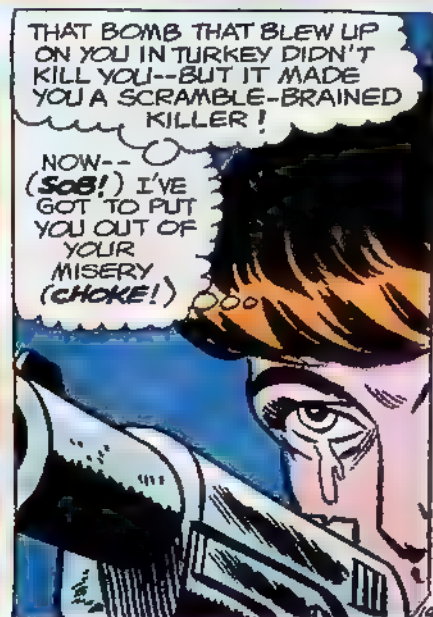
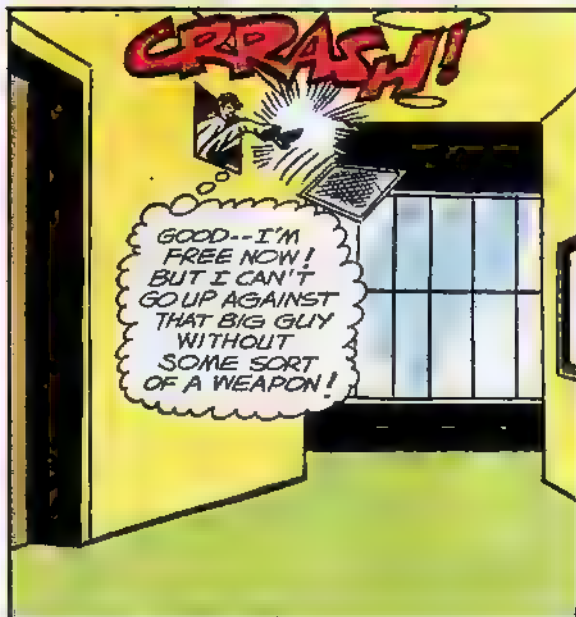


A PACK OF IDIOTS, WE ARE! TO TRUST A KID LIKE THAT--SICK WITH GRIEF!

WHAM! WHAM!

WE GOT ENOUGH NITROX HERE TO MAKE THE BIGGEST BATCH OF ANTIDOTE YOU EVER SAW! BUT WE CAN'T DELIVER IT! HYAAAGH!





CRASH! BAM!

I MUST HAVE IT!

WHERE IS IT?
WHERE IS THAT
CURSED
FROZEN
NITROX?

RRIP!

IT'S MY ONLY
ROAD TO TOTAL
WORLD POWER!

THE
NITROX YOU
NEEDED SO
DESPERATELY--
I CAN GET
IT FOR YOU!

RED!
IT'S ME--
MARTY--YOUR
COOL KID
BROTHER,
THE ROCK-
AND-ROLL
KID! I
CHANGED
MY NAME TO
TINO AND
MADE A
MILLION!

HUH?

HONEST! I KNOW
WHERE IT IS!
MORE NITROX
THAN YOU EVER
SAW IN YOUR
LIFE!

ENOUGH TO FEED
YOUR FACE FOR
YEARS! COME
HERE! I'LL
TELL YOU
WHERE IT'S
STASHED!

YOU--YOU WILL SHOW
ME WHERE IT IS?

YEAH--
COME A
LITTLE
CLOSER! IT'S
A SECRET,
RED! AND
I DON'T
WANT
ANYONE
ELSE TO
HEAR
IT!

HERE IT IS,
BABY!
HERE'S
YOUR
NITROX!

WHA--?

AND, MAN, IS IT GOING TO
BE A BLAST, IN MORE
WAYS THAN ONE!

TINO'S TRIGGER FINGER TIGHTENS AND THEN FREEZES--FOR LESS THAN A SECOND! BUT IT SEEMS LIKE CENTURIES!

AND THE HAND SHAKES JUST A LITTLE-- BUT IT IS LIKE ALL THE EARTHQUAKES OF A THOUSAND WORLDS!

I CAN'T! I CAN'T KILL YOU! (SOB!)
YOU--YOU'RE MY--BROTHER!
(CHOKE!)

KLUNK!

LOOK, PYGMY!
YOUR TINY WEAPON WOULD HAVE DONE YOU NO GOOD!

BAM!
BAM!
BAM!

YOU CALLED ME BROTHER, AND REFUSED TO KILL ME! STRANGE! BUT I WON'T HESITATE TO KILL YOU--BROTHER!

WOOOSH!!

YOU MISSED ME, YOU HUMAN SCRAP PILE! YOU MUST BE GETTING RUSTY! TRY AGAIN!

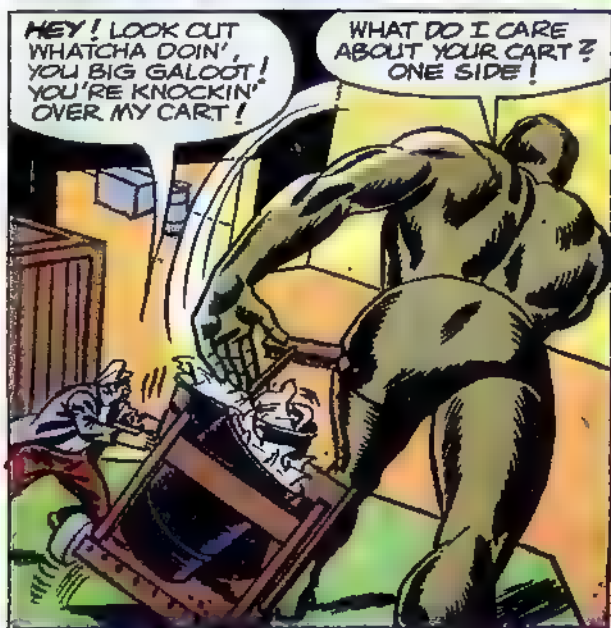
THIS, THEN, IS YOUR LAST MOMENT!

AND YOURS IS COMING UP SOON, TOO, AS SOON AS PROF TURNS THAT LOAD OF NITROX INTO A SUPER ANTIDOTE! YOU LOCKED THEM IN, DUMBO!

THANK YOU FOR THE INFORMATION! I WILL SEE THAT THEY DIE FIRST!

MISSED AGAIN! AND YOU THINK YOU'RE GONNA KNOCK OFF THE CHALLENGERS? HA! BETTER CREEPS THAN YOU HAVE TRIED--AND FALLEN ON THEIR UGLY FACES!

CRASH!





RIGHT ON TARGET, AS WE EXPECTED! THAT CART WAS THE ONLY WAY WE COULD GET THAT MUCH ANTIDOTE CLOSE TO HIM! BUT WILL IT WORK?



AS THE SMOKE BEGINS TO CLEAR, THE CHALLS WATCH APPREHENSIVELY...

IT WORKED-- IT CHANGED HIM BACK TO NORMAL! GOOD OL' RED IS HIS OLD SELF!

PHYSICALLY NORMAL, YES! BUT WHAT ABOUT HIS MIND? IS HE REALLY RED NOW-- OR STILL THAT CRAZY KILLER?

ANOTHER ETERNITY-LONG SECOND PASSES, AND...

A-A-ACE! PROF! GOOD OLD ROCK-HEAD! AND-- MARTY-- M--MY KID BROTHER!



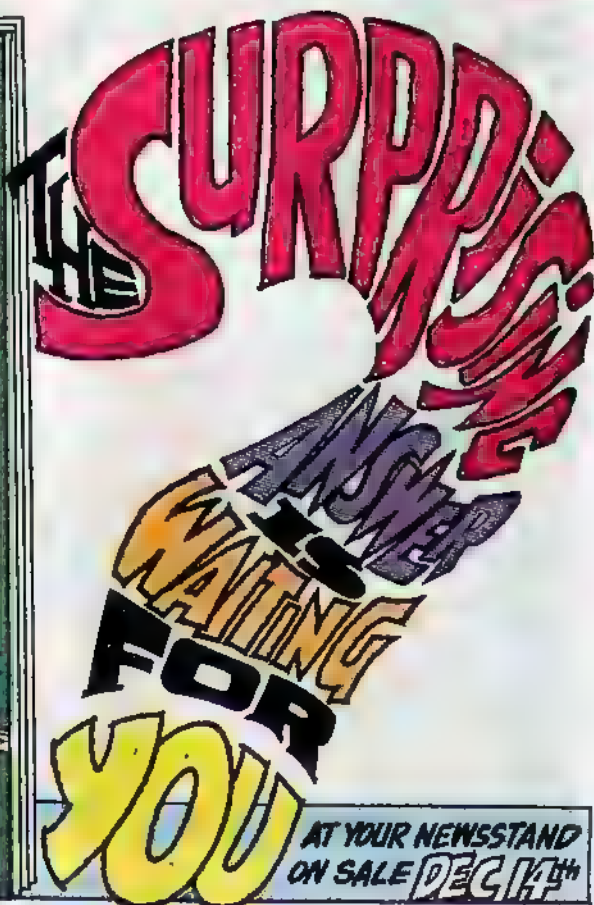
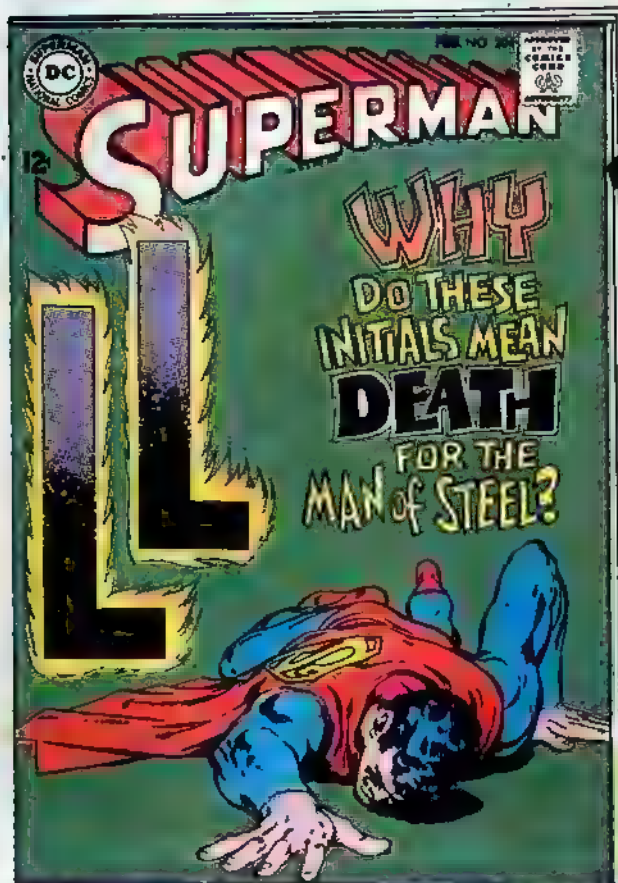
YAHOOOOO!

HE MADE IT!

HE'S OUR BOY AGAIN! WELCOME HOME, CARROT-TOP! IT'S BEEN A LONG TIME!

HALLELUJAH!



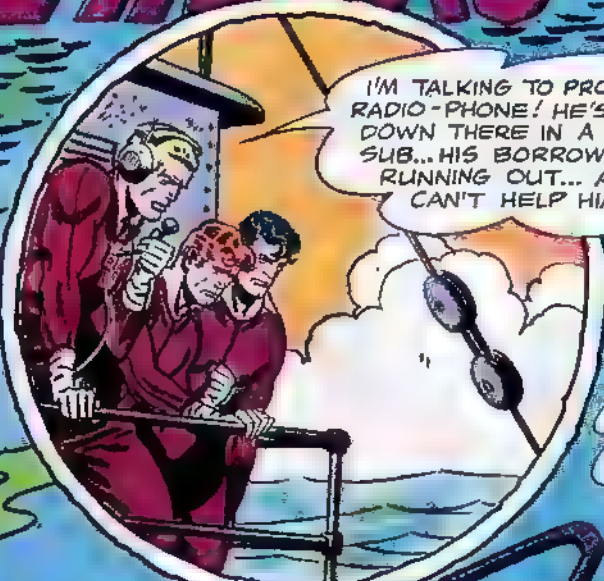


A LEGION OF DEATH CHEATERS SPECIAL

CHALLENGERS OF THE UNKNOWN

TO THESE FOUR WHO LIVE ON BORROWED TIME, EVERY DAY IS A CHALLENGE-- TO LIVE, OR TO DIE! ALWAYS PUSHED TO THE THRESHOLD OF SOME UNKNOWN DOOM, THERE HAVE BEEN TIMES WHEN THEY ALMOST DIDN'T MAKE IT BACK! NOW, THE CHALLENGER IN DESPERATE TROUBLE IS PROF, WHO SUDDENLY FINDS HIS LIFE TICKING AWAY, WITH ONLY...

2 HOURS TO DIE!



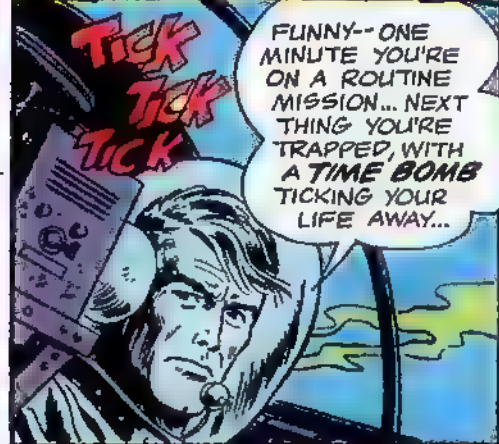
I'M TALKING TO PROF BY RADIO-PHONE! HE'S TRAPPED DOWN THERE IN A TNT-CHARGED SUB... HIS BORROWED TIME'S RUNNING OUT... AND WE CAN'T HELP HIM!

SURE... IT HAD TO HAPPEN... SOME DAY... BUT AT LEAST THE OTHER GUYS ARE SAFE UP ABOVE...

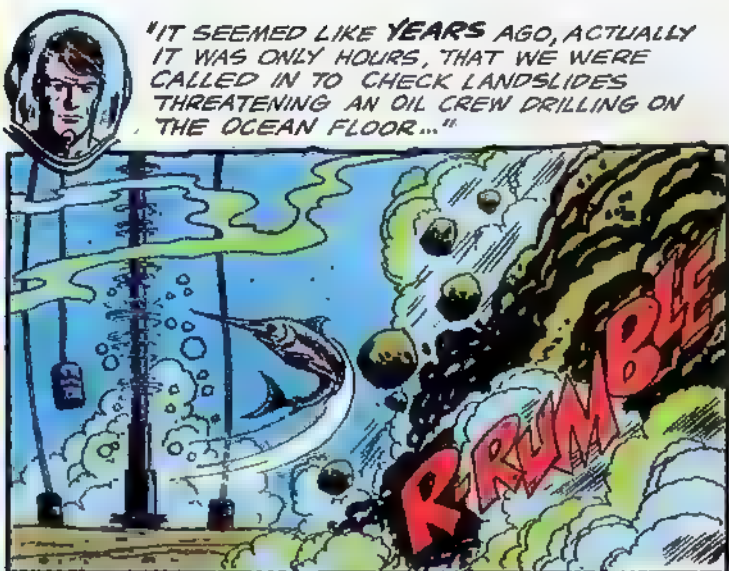
TICK
TICK
TICK

A Demand
Classic

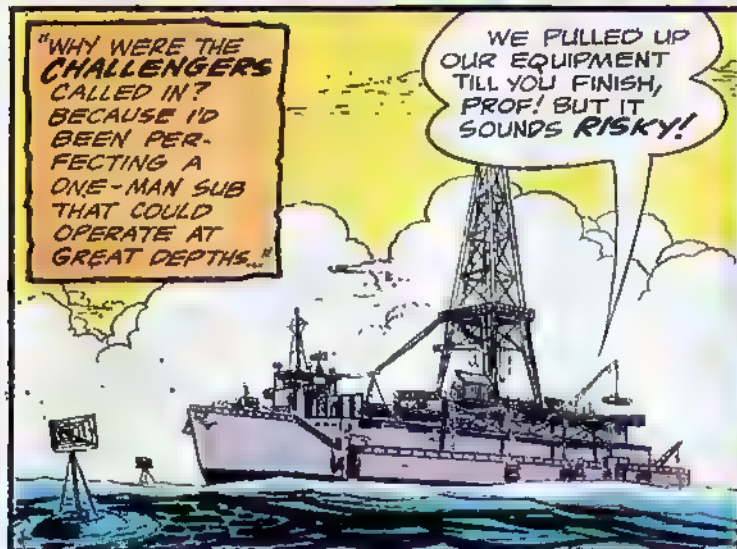
SWEATING OUT THE INEVITABLE EXPLOSION, THE DEEP SEA-DIVING CHALLENGER PONDER'S HIS GRIM FATE...



"IT SEEMED LIKE YEARS AGO, ACTUALLY IT WAS ONLY HOURS, THAT WE WERE CALLED IN TO CHECK LANDSLIDES THREATENING AN OIL CREW DRILLING ON THE OCEAN FLOOR..."



"WHY WERE THE CHALLENGERS CALLED IN? BECAUSE I'D BEEN PERFECTING A ONE-MAN SUB THAT COULD OPERATE AT GREAT DEPTHS..."

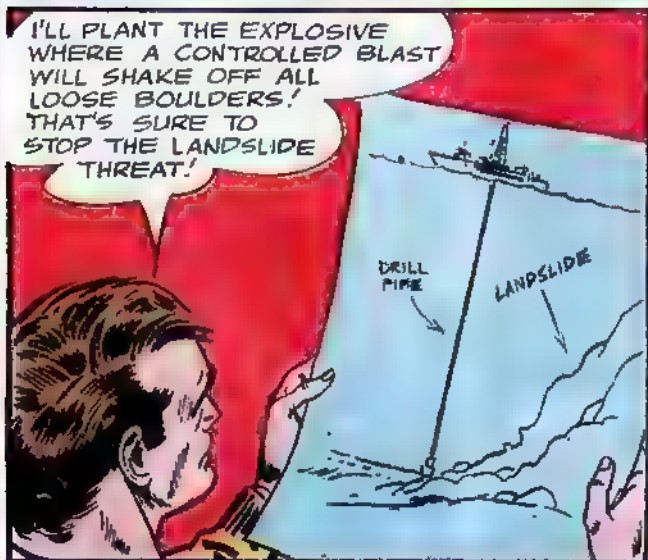


DON'T WORRY ABOUT PROF-- HE'S HALF FISH! GO GET 'EM, TIGER!

I'M READY ANY TIME YOU ARE! SOON AS WE LOAD THE BOMB ABOARD THE SUB, YOU CAN LOWER AWAY!



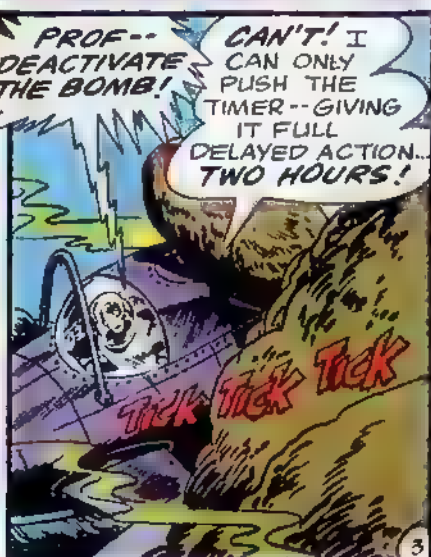
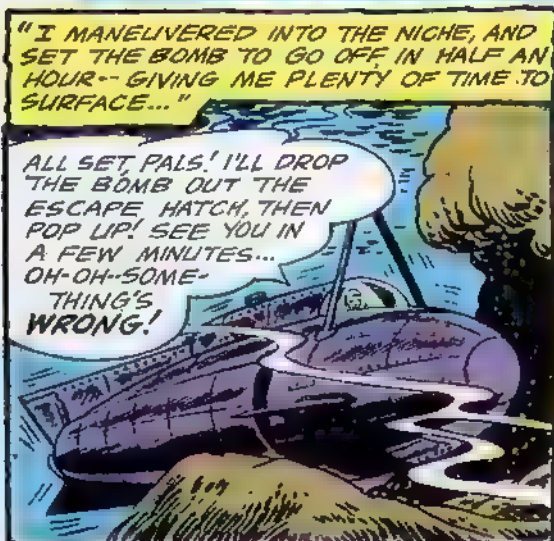
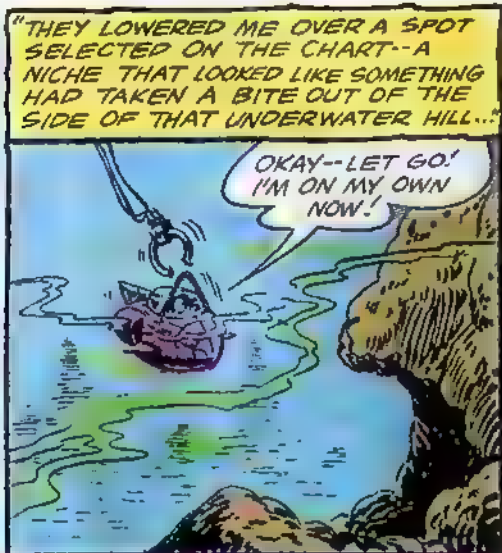
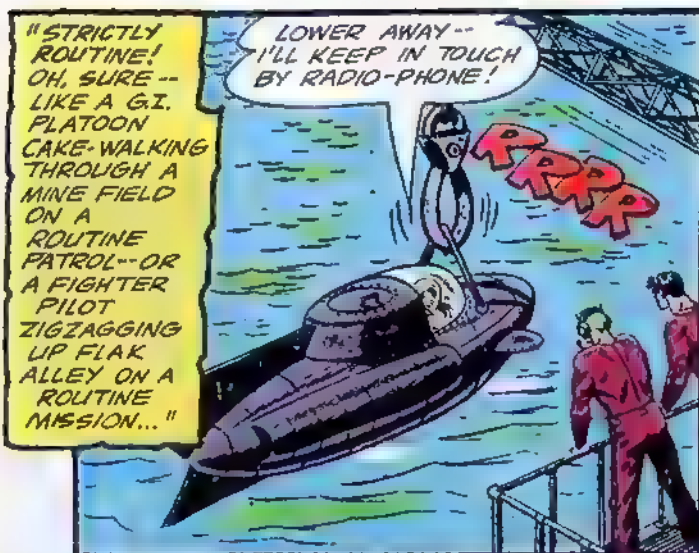
I'LL PLANT THE EXPLOSIVE WHERE A CONTROLLED BLAST WILL SHAKE OFF ALL LOOSE BOULDERS! THAT'S SURE TO STOP THE LANDSLIDE THREAT!



THIS SPECIAL SUIT WITHSTANDS PRESSURE AT DEPTHS WHERE NO MAN EVER HAS GONE--JUST IN CASE I HAVE TO SWIM HOME!

AW-W-W! NOTHIN' IS GONNA GO WRONG, CAT! THIS IS STRICTLY ROUTINE!



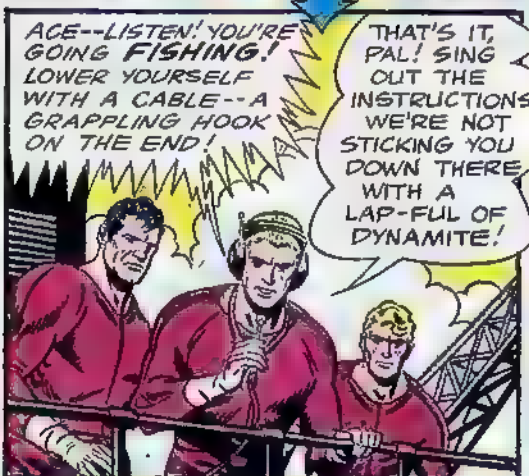




CAN YOU SMASH
THE PLASTIC
DOME AND
GET OUT?

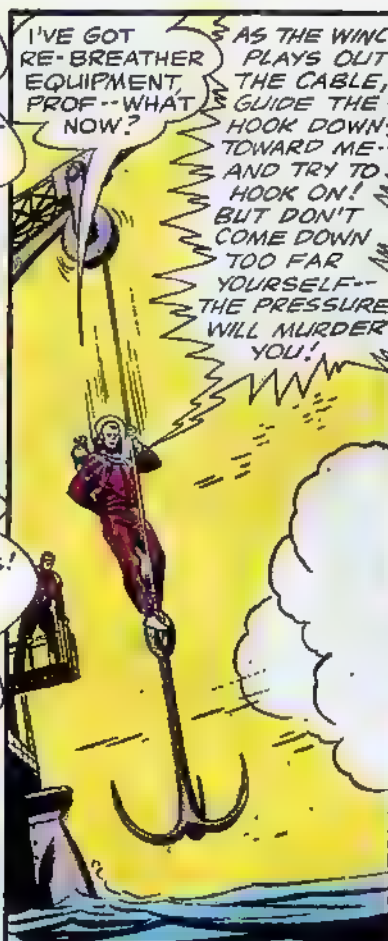
EVEN ROCKY
COULDN'T DO IT--
WITH A SLEDGE
HAMMER! BUT
DON'T WORRY, PALS--
I'VE GOT TWO
HOURS GOING FOR
ME--I'LL THINK
OF SOMETHING!
HMM... I'VE GOT
IT!

TICK TICK



ACE--LISTEN! YOU'RE
GOING FISHING!
LOWER YOURSELF
WITH A CABLE-- A
GRAPPLING HOOK
ON THE END!

THAT'S IT,
PAL! SING
OUT THE
INSTRUCTIONS!
WE'RE NOT
STICKING YOU
DOWN THERE
WITH A
LAP-FUL OF
DYNAMITE!



I'VE GOT
RE-BREATHING
EQUIPMENT,
PROF--WHAT
NOW?

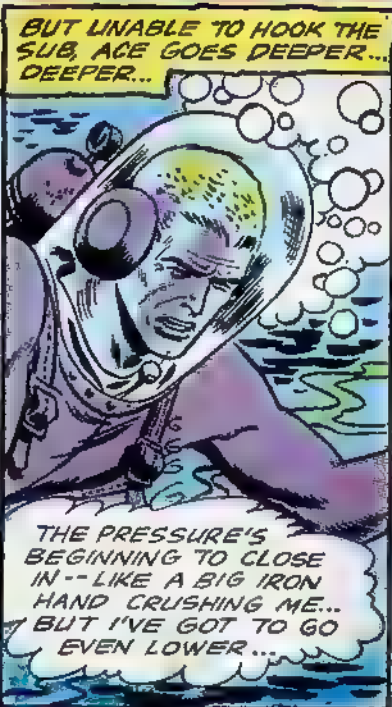
AS THE WINCH
PLAYS OUT
THE CABLE,
GUIDE THE
HOOK DOWN
TOWARD ME--
AND TRY TO
HOOK ON!
BUT DON'T
COME DOWN
TOO FAR
YOURSELF--
THE PRESSURE
WILL MURDER
YOU!



DOWN, DOWN
GOES THE
CHALLENGER...

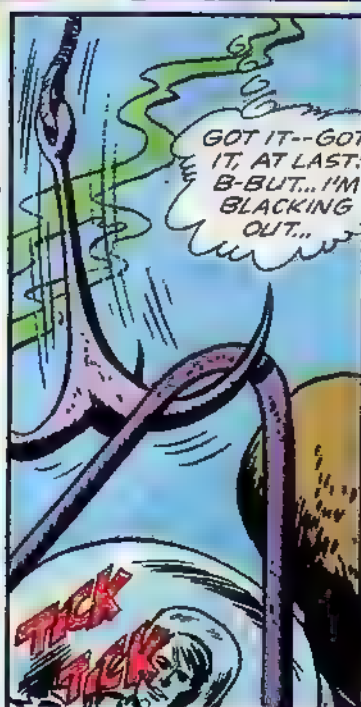
I'LL
HAVE
YOU
IN A
JIFFY,
PROF!

REMEMBER
DON'T GET
BRAVE AND
TRY TO
COME TOO
FAR!



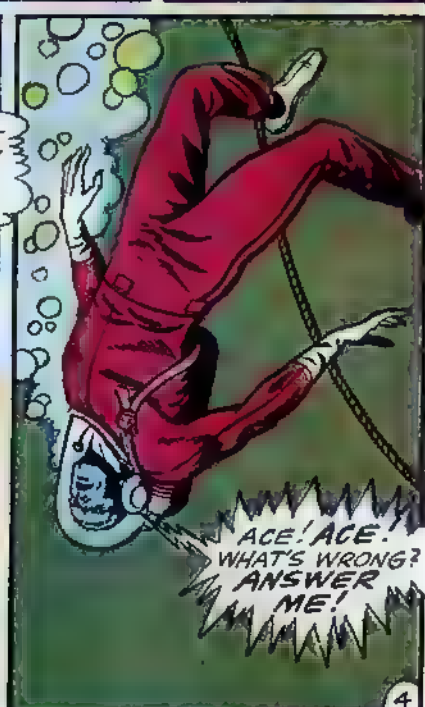
BUT UNABLE TO HOOK THE
SUB, ACE GOES DEEPER...
DEEPER...

THE PRESSURE'S
BEGINNING TO CLOSE
IN-- LIKE A BIG IRON
HAND CRUSHING ME...
BUT I'VE GOT TO GO
EVEN LOWER...



GOT IT--GOT
IT, AT LAST!
B-BUT... I'M
BLACKING
OUT...

**TICK
TICK**



ACE! ACE!
WHAT'S WRONG?
ANSWER
ME!

SOON THE FAMED MOUNTAIN CLIMBER STARTS HIS DESCENT...

WE'RE LUCKY, PAL! THEY HAD **ONE** BLASTING CHARGE LEFT! I'LL GET AS LOW AS I CAN-- TRIGGER IT-- AND DROP IT NEAR THE BOULDER!

SUDDENLY, WITHOUT WARNING...

PROF! ANOTHER LANDSLIDE--AND I'M... I'M HIT!

R-RUMBLE

WHEN THE WOUNDED CHALLENGER IS BROUGHT TO THE SURFACE...

I LOST THE CHARGE... I LET PROF DOWN... LEGS AND ARMS HURT... ROCKY--IT'S UP TO YOU NOW!

DON'T WORRY OLD BUDDY! THIS CAT'LL BRING OUR BOY UP... **SOMEHOW!**

WITH YOUR BRAINS AND MY MUSCLE, WE CAN BEAT THIS, SO YOU TELL ME WHAT TO DO, PROF--NOT MUCH TIME LEFT!

LOOKS LIKE OUR CARDS ARE PLAYED OUT, PAL... LESS THAN AN HOUR LEFT! BESIDES, I DON'T WANT YOU GETTING BUSTED UP LIKE ACE AND RED!

AS THE TICKING BRINGS THE FATAL CLIMAX CLOSER AND CLOSER, THE PAST FLASHES BEFORE THE TRAPPED CHALLENGER'S MIND... LIKE THE TIME THEY FOUGHT THE CYCLOPS...

KNOCK IT OFF--OR I'LL COME DOWN THERE AN' PUNCH YA IN THE NOSE! GET YOUR THINKIN' CAP ON--AN' COME UP WITH AN ANSWER!

SUDDENLY, PROF SNAPS OUT OF IT...

SOON...

ROCKY! WE'VE MERE MINUTES LEFT-- ONLY ONE LAST CHANCE TO FREE ME! YOU LISTENING?

LIKE I'M ALL EARS!

TICK
TICK

READY, PROF! WE LOWERED AN ANCHOR ON THE CABLE-- JUST AS YOU SAID-- AND THE DERRICK'S READY TO START SWINGIN' ME!

THEN SWING IT, BUSTER! HIT THE BOULDER WITH THE ANCHOR!

HERE GOES...

TICK
TICK
TICK

EVERYTHING!

TICK
TICK

TICK
TICK

I'M CLEAR, ROCKY-- CLEAR! I'M PITCHING THE BOMB OUT AND COMING UP! JUST FOUR MINUTES LEFT!

GRAB ON-- HITCH A RIDE!

WILL DO, PAL-- I DON'T WANT TO GET SHOOK UP BY THAT BIG FIRECRACKER

TICK
TICK

VROOOM

LATER...

WE TOOK A LITTLE BEATING, MAYBE-- BUT WE'RE ALL HERE-- AND ALIVE!

YEAH-- WE OUTRAN DEATH BY A FEW SECONDS-- WHICH PUTS US RIGHT ON SCHEDULE, DOESN'T IT?

BLAZING



80 pg. GIANT

MAR 25¢
NO. 190



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6 BATTLE STARS



**THE MOST
FAMOUS
GROUP OF
WAR
HEROES
EVER
ASSEMBLED
IN ONE
THRILL
PACKED
GIANT!**

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